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SEP 16 1921

THE CALL OF THE NORTH

Photoplay in five reels

Adapted from the novel CONJUROR'S HOUSE
by Steward Edward White, and the play
by George Broadhurst.

Directed by Cecil B. DeMille

Author, Jesse L. Lasky Feature Play
Co. Inc. of the U. S. as employer for hire.

Produced by Jesse L. Lasky in 1914.
Directed by Cecil B. de Mille.
Star: Robert Edson.
Based on the novel "The Conjuror's House",
by Stewart Edward White.

Synopsis made from the film
By Augusta Colucci

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THE CALL OF THE NORTH

Play By George H. Broadhurst

Galen Albret, a factor in the Hudson Bay Company, is considered lord of all temporal existence within reach of his trading post. He is protected from the scrutiny of civil rule by hundreds of miles of untamed wilderness, and exercises the prerogatives of an absolute monarch without thought of the Canadian parliament or its laws.

The factor decides to take a trip and during the journey, which is made on foot, he loses his footing and rolls down a hill. He lies at the bottom in a state of exhaustion. At night he sees the lights of a shack gleaming through the trees and the figure of a girl silhouetted in the doorway. He staggers toward the house and discovers that its inmates are an old man and his charming daughter, Elodie. After he has had some whiskey, he feels none the worse for his fall. The old man falls asleep, and the factor tells Elodie stories of adventure far into the night. The girl is fascinated by the power of the big, rough man, and when he asks her to marry him at once she is eager to go away with him. They leave a note for the father, and they then set out for a little French mission and are married.

The first one to find Elodie's note is Rand, a rejected suitor. He awakens Elodie's father, and shakes him roughly for he is wild with rage at having lost the girl. He decides to go to Albret's trading post for work, and then, when he is on the ground, work out some method of revenge. When he arrives at the post, Albret refuses him work. Elodie, however, intercedes for him and he starts in at once.

Graham Stewart, who lives at Albret's post with his little son, is one of the chief traders. Elodie mothers the child and a real friendship develops between her and Stewart. Rand is anxious for power and feels that if he can get rid of Stewart his chances for success will be greatly enhanced. He decides that, if he can

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poison Albret's mind and get him to put a wrong interpretation of Stewart's friendship with the factor's wife, the trader will be sent on the Journey of Death. This mode of punishment is in vogue at Albret's post, and always results in death. It means that the victim is sent into the wilderness without food and stripped of every possession. He is followed by the factor's Indian henchmen until he drops dead from exhaustion.

At Christmastime Rand decides to go home for a visit, and Elodie gives him some things to take to her father. One of the presents is a little purse in which she puts a card inscribed "with my dearest love". When Rand sees the card, he decides to plant it in Stewart's room so that the factor will be convinced that his wife is in love with the trader.

Rand takes Elodie's father some whiskey and brings back the purse with him. He takes the factor into Stewart's room and shows him the purse and card on the table. The factor is filled with rage and sends for Stewart. He orders him to take the Journey of Death. He gives him Elodie's purse, and orders Stewart out of the room without bothering to wait for any explanation.

Stewart bids his little son farewell and ties the purse around the child's neck. Then he starts on the long journey through the snow. Five days later, Albret's Indians return and report that Stewart is dead. The factor sends for Ned, the dead man's little son, and has an Indian squaw take him away from the post.

There is a lapse of twenty years and we see the factor, white haired and looking much older, ruling with the same autocratic power. Rand is still at the post and his word counts a lot with Albret. Elodie has died many years before, and her daughter, Virginia, is now an attractive girl of twenty.

Ned Stewart, now a man, has become a free trader in defiance of

the Hudson Bay Company, and his calling is fraught with danger. While he is trading with some Indians near Albret's post, he hears of his father's tragic death from an old priest, and he is filled with hatred of the factor.

It is reported to Rand that there is a free trader in the forest, and together with some Indians he sets out to capture him. He finds Ned and takes him to the factor, who warns him that he never will leave the post alive if he is found within its boundaries again.

Ned now goes back to his comfortable home, but he cannot forget the story he has heard about his father. Finally the call of the North becomes so strong that he starts out for the wilderness once more.

While he is journeying through the woods, Ned finds Picard, a French Canadian who works at Albret's post, caught in a trap. He releases him and shortly afterward he himself is captured by Albret's Indians. He is taken to the post in a canoe. On the shore he sees Albret's daughter, Virginia, and the girl is immediately infatuated. Good looking young men are scarce in the Frigid Zone, and she sees in him the embodiment of romance.

Albret orders Ned to start on the Journey of Death the following day, and is much peeved at the supercilious manner in which the young trader receives this edict.

Having saved Picard's life, Ned feels sure that he will be able to get a rifle from this quarter. Picard, however, quakes with fear at the thought of helping Ned, but finally he gives the free trader a knife.

When Virginia learns that Ned is to take the Journey of Death,

she decides to help him. She promised to bring him a rifle and some food if he will meet her at the river trail that night.

There is now a scene between Julie, Picard's sweetheart, and Rand. He tries to force his attentions on the girl and Picard resents this. Both he and the girl fear Rand's power, however, and dare not show their anger.

Late that night Virginia starts out in a canoe with provisions for Ned. Rand is watching her and orders several Indians to swim after the girl and prevent Ned from getting the help she is taking him.

Ned and Virginia have a few wonderful minutes together, and admit that they love each other. Ned kisses her and puts around her neck the purse his father had given him. As soon as Virginia has started back, Ned is attacked by the Indians and there is a terrible fight in the water. He is overpowered, of course, and taken back to the trading post.

The following morning Ned is brought before the factor. The old man offers him freedom if he will confess who gave him the rifle, for above all else Albret wants to know the name of the traitor in his post. The cowardly Picard is so unstrong that he goes on his knees to Ned, begging him to admit that he is not the guilty one, and Ned assures the factor at once that he is telling the truth.

The factor gives Ned one minute in which to confess. If he keeps silent, he will be hung. At this moment Virginia enters. She has learned what is happening, and has come to save the man she loves. She confesses the part she played in helping Ned, and the factor now orders everyone from the room. The factor sees the purse hanging around Virginia's neck, and this brings back bitter memories. He realizes who Ned is, and says that the son can now share his father's fate. Virginia pleads for Ned's life.

but the factor is merciless and shoves her aside. Shortly afterward, Ned starts out on the fatal journey.

Now Rand has discovered that Picard had given Ned his knife, and he tries to use this knowledge to his own advantage. He tells Julie that, if he tells the factor of Picard's treachery, it will mean that he will hang. He intimates that if she wants to save her lover's life she will have to give herself to him, Rand. The girl pretends that she will do this, but when Rand goes off in his canoe she runs to Picard's shack and gets his rifle.

Cautiously hiding behind a clump of bushes near the shore, Julie watches Rand paddle toward her. When he is directly opposite, she shoots him and sees him fall over. Then she hurries back to Picard's shack and returns the rifle to its place on the wall.

Virginia is sitting on a rock when suddenly she sees Rand's canoe drift toward shore. Her father now joins her and they pull the canoe in to land. As Virginia bends over the dying Rand, he sees the purse dangling before him. It brings back the past to him, and before he dies he tells the factor that he had lied about Elodie and Stewart.

The factor is in a state of frenzy and gives hurried orders to his Indians and Picard. They take the trail they know Ned is following, but cannot exactly locate him. Ned is fighting to get hold of the rifle carried by the Indian who was ordered to follow him until death ended the journey, and suddenly a shot rings into the air. Picard hears this and is able to locate Ned.

Ned is taken back to the trading post by Picard and the Indians, and the entire settlement is on the shore to greet him. The factor

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is filled with a desire to atone for the injustices he has done, and the picture fades out as Virginia and Ned start away from the post in a canoe, leaving a cheering, saluting crowd waving from the shore.

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